

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 717

By McCord

A RESOLUTION recognizing Christus Gardens in Gatlinburg on the occasion of its closing after forty-seven years of business.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize to estimable attractions which have provided entertainment and inspiration to thousands of visitors; and

WHEREAS, Christus Gardens in Gatlinburg is one such institution which, after forty-seven years of business, will close its doors for the final time on January 12, 2008; and

WHEREAS, opened on August 13, 1960, by visionary Ronald S. Ligon, Christus Gardens, nestled in the verdant slopes of the Smokey Mountains, was America's top religious attraction, offering a biblical experience, complete with life-size dioramas and murals, to thousands of visitors each year; and

WHEREAS, these visitors were enthralled with the experience offered by Christus Gardens, marveling at "The Promise," a 900-square-foot mural depicting more than thirty life-size Old Testament figures, the Place of the Parables Gallery, the Heirloom Bible Collection, and the world-famous "Carrera Face," a 6-ton marble depiction of Jesus Christ which appears to turn and follow each visitor's movements; and

WHEREAS, for nearly half a century, Christus Gardens has inspired and entertained countless visitors, providing them with memories they can carry with them the rest of their lives, and deserves to be properly recognized on the occasion of its closing; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we recognize Christus Gardens, and its owner Ronald Ligon, on the

occasion of the attraction's closing, a moment which marks the end of one of this State's finest tourist attractions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.